

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4330

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 5599

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PNIR, TU

SUBJECT: ECEVIT TRIP TO U.S.: BIO UPDATE ON ALEV COSKUN

REF: ANKARA 5582

1. FOLLOWING IS UPDATE OF BIOGRAPHY OF ALEV COSKUN REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) SPOKESMAN, WHO WILL ACCOMPANY RPP CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT ON HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

2. COSKUN WAS FIRST ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT IN 1973. BRIGHT, WESTERN EDUCATED, AND AGGRESSIVE, HE WAS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERED FOR A CABINET POSITION BY ECEVIT IN 1974. HE IS VERY AMBITIOUS BUT HE BELIEVES TIMING IS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN POLITICAL SUCCESS AND HE DOES NOT WANT TO RISE TOO QUICKLY. HE THEREFORE CLAIMS HE DID NOT SEEK A CABINET POSITION. SIMILARLY, IN EARLY 1976 HE WAS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERED FOR APPOINTMENT AS ONE OF TWO RPP DEP. SECGENS, BUT HE CLAIMS TO HAVE TURNED IT DOWN FOR THE SAME REASON.

3. COSKUN IS CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH THE "CENTRISTS" OF THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY. HE IS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF RPP SECGEN EYUBOGLU. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE PARTY EXECUTIVE BOARD AND SPENDS MUCH OF HIS TIME WORKING ON INTERNAL PARTY PROBLEMS. HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE INTRA-PARTY STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE "CENTRISTS" AND "LEFTISTS". HE IS THE PARTY SPOKESMAN AND HE ALSO

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HAS RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR LABOR

MATTERS.

4. COSKUN IS CONSERVATIVE BY RPP STANDARDS. HE DOES NOT SHARE THE TRADITIONAL RPP ANTIPATHY TOWARD THE PRIVATE SECTOR. HIS LENGTHY EXPERIENCE IN THE U.S. WAS A NEARLY TOTALLY POSITIVE ONE. BECAUSE OF THIS, WE CONSIDER HIS PRESENCE IN THE ECEVIT PARTY A POSITIVE ELEMENT.

5. WHETHER OR NOT COSKUN WOULD ACCOMPANY ECEVIT WAS UNCERTAIN UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT BECAUSE OF HIS CLEAR IDENTIFICATION WITH THE EYUBOGLU FACTION OF THE PARTY. HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE VISIT IS AN INDICATION THAT THE "CENTRISTS" ARE STILL IN A VERY STRONG POSITION IN THE RPP.  
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